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DOE APPOINTS UT DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR TO OAK RIDGE SITE SPECIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

OAK RIDGE, Tenn. -- The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has appointed Robert D. Hatcher, Jr., Ph.D., to the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board. Hatcher is a research scientist and distinguished professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at The University of Tennessee - Knoxville.

“As we continue environmental cleanup on the Oak Ridge Reservation, we are fortunate to have someone with the credentials of Dr. Hatcher contributing to our Advisory Board,” said Gerald Boyd, Manager of DOE’s Oak Ridge Office. The Board is a federally-chartered citizens’ panel that provides recommendations to DOE’s Oak Ridge Environmental Management Program, which is responsible for the cleanup of the Oak Ridge Reservation.

Hatcher previously worked for 14 years under a joint appointment between the University of Tennessee (UT) and Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) as part of the UT/ORNL Distinguished Scientist Program. Of note is his work as senior author of the Laboratory’s efforts in the early 1990s to produce a new geologic map and report on the geology of the Oak Ridge Reservation. His 45 years of geologic research in the Appalachians and other mountain chains has resulted in his authorship of more than 200 publications including nine books. He has served on the National Academy of Sciences Board on Radioactive Waste Management and on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Reactor Safety Research Federal Advisory Committee.

Hatcher received his Bachelor of Science degree in geology and chemistry and his Master of Science degree in geology from Vanderbilt University. He holds a doctorate in structural geology from The University of Tennessee - Knoxville. He was employed as a geologist by Humble Oil and Refining Company and served on the faculties of Clemson University, Florida State University, and the University of South Carolina before returning to East Tennessee in the mid-1980s.

“Dr. Hatcher’s background is perfectly relevant to the work that the Site Specific Advisory Board does,” said Dave Adler, DOE’s Oak Ridge Office liaison to the board, as he introduced him at the Board’s July meeting.

Hatcher has also served as president of the Geological Society of America (GSA) and the American Geological Institute (AGI) during the 1990s. He received the highest honors in his profession when he was awarded the GSA Penrose Medal and the AGI Ian Campbell Medal, both in 2006.

Hatcher has lived with his family in Oak Ridge for more than 20 years. He enjoys playing golf, hiking, whitewater canoeing, and kindling the interests of geology in others.

The Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center located at 475 Oak Ridge Turnpike in Oak Ridge. Meetings of the Board and its committees are open to the public, and notices are posted on the board's web site:
www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab.

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